

THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

“Life brings us to places where we feel the heat rise, the torrent threatens to overtake us, and there is no natural relief or refreshment in sight. Yet, God is at work and our purpose to worship and glorify Him remains steadfast and carries us through.” — Julie Bernard

“Jesus is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen...Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness.”

— Elizabeth Elliott

Isaiah 43

Restoration of Israel

43 Now this is what the LORD says—the one who created you, Jacob, and the one who formed you, Israel— “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and the rivers will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, and the flame will not burn you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, and your Savior. I have given Egypt as a ransom for you, Cush and Seba in your place. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight and honored, and I love you, I will give people in exchange for you and nations instead of your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west. ⁶I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!’ Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the ends of the earth— ⁷everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory. I have formed them; indeed, I have made them.” ⁸Bring out a people who are blind, yet have eyes, and are deaf, yet have ears. ⁹All the nations are gathered together, and the peoples are assembled. Who among them can declare this, and tell us the former things? Let them present their witnesses to vindicate themselves, so that people may hear and say, “It is true.” ¹⁰“You are my witnesses”— this is the LORD’s declaration—“and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. No god was formed before me, and there will be none after me. ¹¹I—I am the LORD. Besides me, there is no Savior. ¹²I alone declared, saved, and proclaimed— and not some foreign god among you. So you are my witnesses”— this is the LORD’s declaration— “and I am God. ¹³Also, from today on I am he alone, and none can rescue from my power. I act, and who can reverse

it?" God's Deliverance of Rebellious Israel ¹⁴This is what the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel says: Because of you, I will send an army to Babylon and bring all of them as fugitives, even the Chaldeans in the ships in which they rejoice. ¹⁵I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. ¹⁶This is what the LORD says— who makes a way in the sea, and a path through raging water, ¹⁷who brings out the chariot and horse, the army and the mighty one together (they lie down, they do not rise again; they are extinguished, put out like a wick)— ¹⁸"Do not remember the past events; pay no attention to things of old. ¹⁹Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. ²⁰Wild animals— jackals and ostriches—will honor me, because I provide water in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people. ²¹The people I formed for myself will declare my praise. ²²"But, Jacob, you have not called on me, because, Israel, you have become weary of me. ²³You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings or wearied you with incense. ²⁴You have not bought me aromatic cane with silver, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. ²⁵"I am the one, I sweep away your transgressions for my own sake and remember your sins no more. ²⁶Remind me. Let's argue the case together. Recount the facts, so that you may be vindicated. ²⁷Your first father sinned, and your mediators have rebelled against me. ²⁸So I defiled the officers of the sanctuary, and set Jacob apart for destruction and Israel for scorn.

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What does this passage teach us about God?
3. What does this passage teach us about Man?
4. What purpose does this passage call us to live out?